



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER FIGHTER WING ONE
NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-5200

1994✓

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From: Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
To: Chief of Naval Operations (N09BH)

Subj: COMMAND HISTORY FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1994

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) COMFITWINGLANT Command History
(2) COMFITWINGLANT Calendar Year 1994
(3) Biography of Captain Dale O. Snodgrass
(4) Photograph of Captain Dale O. Snodgrass
(5) Former Wing Commanders

1. Per reference (a), enclosures (1) through (5) are submitted.


D. O. SNODGRASS

Copy to: (w/o encls (3), (4) and (5))
COMNAVAIRLANT (N02P)

Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

COMMAND HISTORY

Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic fleet was established on 1 July 1971 replacing Commander Fleet Air Norfolk as supervisor, coordinator and director of operations, maintenance, supply and administration for Atlantic Fleet fighter squadrons. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet assumes the overall responsibility for the continuing material readiness and type training of all fleet squadrons and units within the Atlantic Fleet F-14 fighter community. In addition, Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet is administratively responsible for providing support for Fleet Composite Squadron 8. The Commander coordinates, for the squadron/air/wing commander, the scheduling of such functions as safety inspections, aircraft material inspections and modification programs, Standard Depot Level Maintenance (SDLM) schedules, unit weapons deployments and competitive exercises. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet also assists the air wing commanders and fleet squadron commanders in all aspects of training and material readiness while shore-based and, when appropriate, when squadrons are deployed.

At present, Fighter Wing Atlantic consists of eight fleet operation squadrons flying the F-14 Tomcat, Fighter Squadron 101, Fleet Composite Squadron 8 and provides scheduling authority over Fighter Squadron Composite 12. The Fleet Readiness Squadron, Fighter Squadron 101, provides replacement aircrew and maintenance personnel for the F-14. Fleet Composite Squadron 8 provides fleet air support services for deploying aviation squadrons. Fighter Squadron Composite 12 provides adversary support for the fleet and Fighter Squadron 101.

Fighter Wing Atlantic is comprised of over 280 aircraft and more than 4,700 officers and enlisted personnel. The prompt provision of services and facilities to the squadrons and personnel that comprise them ensures support and maximum combat readiness capabilities of the Atlantic Fleet fighter community.

COMFITWINGLANT CALENDAR YEAR 1994

1. Command Composition and Organization

a. Mission. To exercise administrative and operational control over readiness training squadrons and other units assigned. Fighter Wing Atlantic assists air wing commanders and fleet squadron commanding officers in all aspects of training and material readiness while shore-based and, when appropriate, while squadrons are deployed.

b. Commander. Captain Dale O. Snodgrass.

c. Command Relationships. Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet reports to Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

2. Chronology.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
20JAN94	Fighter Squadron 74 Change of Command. Commander J. J. Morrow relieved Commander C. S. Sayers.
21JAN94	Fighter Squadron 84 Change of Command. Commander B. T. Goetsch relieved Commander J. D. Stufflebeem.
4FEB94	Fighter Squadron 101 Change of Command. Commander C. A. Wyatt relieved Commander C. A. Wuethrich.
23APR94	Fighter Squadron Composite 12 Change of Command. Commander M. J. McGraw relieved Commander D. C. Schlaefer.
29APR94	Fighter Squadron 14 Change of Command. Commander J. J. Morrow relieved Commander J. W. Snyder.
30APR94	Fighter Squadron 74 decommissioned.
30JUN94	Fighter Squadron 43 decommissioned.
1JUL94	Fighter Squadron 102 Change of Command. Commander R. D. Barbaree relieved Commander S. P. Collins.
15JUL94	Fighter Squadron 41 Change of Command. Commander R. C. Bedford relieved Commander J. W. Sherman.

CHRONOLOGY (Continued)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
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19AUG94	Fighter Squadron 143 Change of Command. Commander P. J. Williams relieved Commander Thomas B. Hill.
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3. Administrative Department.

a. The Bronze Anchor Award (Shore Command) and Energy Conservation Award winner for 1994 was VC-8. The Bronze Anchor Award (Sea Command) winner was VF-41.

b. Third Quarter Sailor of the Quarter was AK1 (b) (6)
Fourth Quarter Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year was
YN1 (b) (6)

c. Command Navy Achievement Medals were awarded to:

LT (b) (6)	- Special act/TAD to Haiti.
ENS	- End of tour.
LT	- Special act/Fighter Fling.
ENS	- End of tour.
YN2	- Special act/ran TEMADD office during absence of civilian.
ADC	- Special act.
ATCS(AW) (b) (6)	- End of tour/retirement.
AE2 (b) (6)	- Special act/designed cable system.

d. Battle "E", Golden Wrench and the Safety "S" were awarded to VF-142.

e. The Grand Slam award winner was VF-103.

4. Maintenance Department.

- Incorporated Structural Data Recording System (SDRS) (AFC-808) into 16 F-14A aircraft.

- Commenced the conversion of 15 F-14As to F-14Bs at Grumman, St. Augustine, FL. Delivered 14 aircraft in CY94 and one in January 95.

- Delivered the first SDLM induction aircraft to NADEP Jacksonville, FL in October 94.

Maintenance Department (Continued)

- Commenced installation of MCAP (AFC-828) into 30 F-14Bs, completing 25 aircraft in CY94.
- Commenced F-14B UPGRADE Program, inducting VAL/VER aircraft (162913) in July 94 with production upgrades inductions commencing January 95.
- Transitioned VF-102 from F-14As to F-14Bs.
- Decommissioned VF-74.
- Flew prototype electro optical imaging (CA-260) framing sensor in TARPS POD.
- Initiated action, concurrent with AIMD Oceana, to increase scope of repair on Honeycomb components in conjunction with transition of "Tired Iron" responsibility transfer from NADEP NORVA to NADEP NI.
- Implemented on-going tailoring action to evaluate Fighter Wing Atlantic Pre-Ex needs and excesses.
- Installed reworked (blue gater) w/s motors in CVW-7 and CVW-3 aircraft prior to major deployments.
- Implemented procedures, through Naval Air Station Oceana, to ensure validation of FEMS data, preventing unnecessary loss of FLE.
- Hosted and acted as Fleet Liaison for 12 Naval, Marine Corps and Air Force detachments.
- Coordinated with activities and contractors for initial implementation and start-up of Hangars 400 and 500 Modification plan.
- Coordinated the introduction and installation of NALCOMIS Phase III into Hangar 500.
- Initiated the first F-14 Initial and Career Level Aviation Maintenance Training. Program supports the CNO Initiative on quality training, the first of its kind in AIRLANT.
- Liaisoned between AIRLANT, CINCLANT, NAVMAC, BUPERS and OPNAV to accelerate increased manning levels for five fleet squadrons and training command.
- Organized the distribution/reassignment of over 1,000 maintenance personnel resulting from decommissioning of three fighter squadrons.

Maintenance Department (Continued)

- Coordinated all aspects of Information Security (INFOSEC) hardware and software materials within Fighter Wing Atlantic to include inventory, distribution and security.
- Developed the first in-depth INFOSEC instruction and standard operating procedures for Fighter Wing Atlantic.
- Facilitated testing of over 2,000 personnel through the refresher Maintenance Training Improvement Program (MTIP).

5. Readiness Department.

- Received clearance to carry LGTR, GBU-16, GBU-10, TALD, MK-58 smoke and LUU-2 Paraflares.
- Initiated and directed LANTIRN prototype program for F-14.
- Relieved ATKWING as manager of all local VR routes.
- Co-hosted air-to-air OAG in June (at NAS Miramar).
- Contributed to revision of all F-14 tactical manuals including an entire re-write of the Air-to-Ground TACMAN.
- Coordinated and provided safety observers for numerous air wing missile firing exercises.
- Provided briefings, tours and simulator demonstrations to hundreds of distinguished visitors.

6. Safety Department.

- Saw a dramatic improvement in the Atlantic Fleet F-14 mishap rate. The 1994 mishap rate was 5.04 per 100,000 flight hours (three mishaps during 39,678 total flight hours) as compared to a rate of 12.6 for 1993.
- No community aircraft losses as a result of out-of-control flight.
- Shifted the CNO Safety Award reporting cycle to a calendar year vice fiscal year award.
- Oversaw the complete rehabilitation of the 2E6 Simulator building.
- Completed the Synthetic Theater of War-Europe (STOWE) project in October 1994.

CAPTAIN DALE O. SNODGRASS UNITED STATES NAVY

Captain Snodgrass, a native of (b) (6) was commissioned an Ensign in August 1972 and designated a Naval Aviator in December 1973. He reported to Fighter Squadron 124 as one of the first two newly winged Aviators selected for F-14 training. After being the first non-fleet experienced Aviator to carrier qualify the F-14, he reported to Fighter Squadron 142 in January 1975. Completing his first tour in May 1978, he reported to Fighter Squadron 101, the F-14 Training Squadron, as a Flight Instructor and Landing Signal Officer. Following his Instructor tour, he reported to Carrier Air Wing 8 as the Senior Landing Signal Officer.

After a two year tour in Air Wing 8, he reported to Fighter Squadron 43 as an Adversary Instructor, serving as Operations Officer. Returning to the fleet in January 1985 Captain Snodgrass served in Fighter Squadron 143 as Operations and Maintenance Officer. In 1986 Captain Snodgrass was selected as the Navy's "Fighter Pilot of the Year" and "Top Cat of the Year". Reporting to Fighter Squadron 101 in January 1988, he served as the Executive Officer until May 1988. Captain Snodgrass subsequently joined Fighter Squadron 33 as Executive Officer later the same month. He assumed command of Fighter Squadron 33 in September 1989, while embarked in the USS AMERICA (CV 66) in the Red Sea. Upon completion of his sixth deployment, he led his squadron through an accelerated training cycle that culminated with combat operations in support of "DESERT STORM". His Commanding Officer's tour ended with yet another underway Change of Command in the Red Sea in February 1991.

Captain Snodgrass then reported to the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) as Navigator. Assuming additional duties as Battle Group Navigator, he planned, coordinated and safely executed Battle Group navigation and transit in the Red Sea, Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean. His Navigation Department and Staff was subsequently selected for the U.S. Atlantic's Fleet Navigation award for 1992. Transferring in March 1993, he reported to the Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare as Head, Aviation Manpower, Undergraduate Flight Training and Trainer Aircraft sections. In September 1994, Captain Snodgrass reported as Commander, Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Captain Snodgrass has accumulated over 5,200 tactical jet hours, including 3,700 hours in the F-14 and 1,084 carrier arrested landings. His personal awards include: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Air Medal with Combat V (two awards), Strike Flight Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, with Combat V (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards) and various Unit and Service Decorations.

**Captain Snodgrass and his lovely wife, (b) (6)
(b) (6) He has two beautiful daughters (b) (6)**

FORMER WING COMMANDERS

Captain Eugene Bezore	1 July 1971 - 4 January 1972
Captain Wilbert D. Knutson	4 January 1972 - 16 July 1974
Captain Lowell R. Myers	16 July 1974 - 27 August 1975
Captain Gerald L. Riendeau	27 August 1975 - 27 August 1976
Captain John S. Disher	27 August 1976 - 28 April 1978
Captain Samuel C. Flynn, Jr.	28 April 1978 - 31 July 1980
Captain Robert E. Tucker, Jr.	31 July 1980 - 2 April 1982
Captain Frederick L. Lewis	2 April 1982 - 7 October 1983
Captain Roy Cash, Jr.	7 October 1983 - 7 February 1985
Captain Donald L. McCrory	7 February 1985 - 21 February 1986
Captain John F. Manning, Jr.	15 September 1986 - 9 August 1988
Captain Curtiss W. Schantz, Jr.	9 August 1988 - 17 May 1990
Captain Richard W. Potter	17 May 1990 - 24 June 1991
Captain James Flaherty, Jr.	24 June 1991 - 7 August 1992
Captain Robert S. Schmidt	7 August 1992 - 30 September 1994

